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SCIENCE

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF GEOLOGY AND THE ORDER OF THE STATE¹

ONCE each year we come together to renew our strength, like Antæus, by touching the earth.

I am conscious of taking some degree of liberty in departing from the usual form of this established function—the annual address. It would gratify me and might in some measure have diverted or persuaded you, if this occasion were given to the illumination of some specific technical theme. But the spirit of the hour seems to impel me rather to read from out my experience and observation, or at least to portray, as I see it, some part of the obligation of the state to our science and the responsibility of this science to the state.

The occasion is perhaps opportune, not so much in this place of meeting which happens to be the seat of government of but one of the many states here represented, and in the presence of members from two great federated governments; but essentially because, for the sake of all parties of interest, we must recognize more clearly the civic element in geological science and insist more pertinaciously on the immediate as well as the ultimate dependence of a state, if organized to endure, upon the demonstrated laws of this science.

I wish I might extend to my colleagues among the official geologists of many states an assurance that this address is to be devoted to some added demonstration of the obligation of the state to exploit to the utmost its geological resources, for the sake

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ President's address before the Geological Society of America, Albany, December 28, 1916.